



**Statement of Bangladesh at the First Informal Consultation on the revised draft Political Declaration of the Second UN Ocean Conference, 01 February 2022, UN General Assembly, UNHQs**

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**Dear Co-facilitators,**

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered by G77 and China. We thank you for resuming the consultation this year amid the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 pandemic.

My delegation had shared its national inputs at the first rounds of the consultations held in the winter and spring of 2020. Allow me now to make the following additional comments.

**First,** Although the impacts of climate change and sea level rise have been incorporated in the draft declaration in the context of the health and productivity of the oceans, we believe it is also important to take note of other socio-economic, political and security implications of these phenomena on the coastal states. Especially the impacts of sea level rise are manifold, as it could cause the submersion of existing land territories of many countries, or even change boundaries in the maritime zones; thereby raising complex issues of sovereignty, and access to natural resources.

**Second,** We believe that the oceanic health issues be integrated and be high on the agenda of all climate and biodiversity conferences. We look forward to working with other delegates to include this aspect in this political declaration.

**Third,** we reiterate our strong support to combat marine plastics litter and microplastics into the ocean through comprehensive life-cycle approaches as proposed in the revised political declaration. You are aware that a discussion is going on to explore the possibility of concluding a global agreement to combat marine plastic pollution. We expect the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environmental Assembly, scheduled to be held in Nairobi to come up with a productive outcome in this regard. The political declaration of the Ocean Conference may have a reflection on this effort to conclude a global agreement to combat marine plastic pollution.

**Fourth,** given the urgency to finalize a legally binding agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, we support the reference to BBNJ intergovernmental conference in paragraph 8 of the draft political declaration. My delegation also strongly supports the reference to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in paragraph 7 of the revised political declaration within which all activities in the ocean and seas must be carried out.

we would like to reiterate our full support to the co-facilitators in their effort to finalize the Political Declaration of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference through an inclusive and participatory process.

I thank you all.